

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT SOPN ECON SF US XX

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO MARAIS SPEECH ON APARTHEID REAPPRAISAL

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 0412, B) STATE 39082 (NOTAL),

C) CAPE TOWN 200 (NOTAL)

1. JAN MARAIS, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION AND
PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN, DELIVERED SPEECH HERE
MARCH 18 (REF A) WHICH CITED ADVERSE TREND IN SOUTH AFRICAN
RELATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD (PARTICULARLY US AND FRG),
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SOUTH AFRICA'S INCREASING NEED FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN CAPITAL,
AND EXAMPLES OF CHANGE NEEDED IN APARTHEID TO MAKE SAG
POLICIES ACCEPTABLE.

2. ON THE LATTER POINT, HE MENTIONED FOUR SPECIFIC STEPS:

(A) COLOR DISCRIMINATION MUST BE ABANDONED OR RAPIDLY DE-
ESCALATED WITH EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND MEANINGFUL

PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. (B) "IN SOME FORM OR OTHER" COLOREDS AND ASIANS MUST BE GIVEN VOICE LEADING TO FULL CITIZENSHIP. (C) FORMULA MUST BE FOUND FOR DEALING WITH "IRREDUCIBLE NUMBER" OF URBAN BLACKS, PERHAPS ON SIMILAR BASIS TO COLOREDS AND ASIANS. (D) HOMELANDS MUST BE RAPIDLY CONSOLIDATED AND EVEN EXTENDED TO MAKE THEM "MAGNETS OF ATTRACTION" RATHER THAN "AREAS OF CONFINEMENT."

3. ON RELATIONS WITH US, HE SAID IT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY WOULD REFLECT THOSE FORCES IN US "HOSTILE" TO SOUTH AFRICA OR THOSE WHO FAVOR "GRADUAL" RATHER THAN "REVOLUTIONARY" CHANGE. HE TERMED 1976 YEAR OF "STANDSTILL AND SETBACK" WITH FRG, NOTING THAT GERMAN LOANS AND INVESTMENTS HAD VIRTUALLY COME TO A HALT. IN BRITAIN THERE WAS CRITICISM OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR "GROWING AUTHORITARIANISM" OVER CIVIL LIBERTIES, IN FRANCE "FIERCE" CRITICISM OF THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER CONTRACT AND IN JAPAN GREATER "CAUTION" IN FINANCIAL RELATIONS.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC REACTION TO SPEECH BY SAG. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN MODERATE, DRAWING EXTENSIVE BUT NOT FRONT PAGE PLAY IN MOST PAPERS. SOME ENGLISH PAPERS USED THE SPEECH EDITORIALY TO POINT OUT GROWING AFRIKANER ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE. SURPRISINGLY, SPEECH WAS GIVEN FAIRLY FULL COVERAGE ON SABC-TV AND RADIO WITH EXTENSIVE QUOTATION FROM TEXT.

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5. DESPITE MARAIS STATEMENT TO PRESS MARCH 19 REITERATING THAT SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION WAS NOT PRESCRIBING ANY POLITICAL COURSE BUT MERELY REPORTING "THE FACTS," THE SPEECH IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD AS A CALL BY THE FOUNDATION FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN SAG POLICIES. PAST STATEMENTS BY FOUNDATION, WHOSE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES TOP ECHELON OF SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE AMBIGUOUS AND THIS IS FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE DEALT SPECIFICALLY WITH NEED FOR "FULL CITIZENSHIP" FOR INDIANS, COLOREDS AND POSSIBLY URBAN BLACKS AND WITH NEED FOR "MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS." ALSO OF INTEREST IS STATEMENT BY NEW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BASIL HERSOV THAT FOUNDATION WILL IN FUTURE SWITCH EMPHASIS FROM TELLING PEOPLE OVERSEAS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA TO TELLING SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS ABOUT WORLD ATTITUDES. HERSOV SAID "WORLD IS CHANGING AND WE ARE NOT." THEREFORE, WHILE NOT ABANDONING EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES, FOUNDATION WOULD CONCENTRATE ON

"TELLING SOUTH AFRICANS ABOUT THE EXTERNAL FACTS OF LIFE."

6. WHILE MARAIS SPEECH UNLIKELY TO SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT SAG POLICIES IN SHORT RUN, IT DOES ADD TO THE GROWING CHORUS OF VOICES CALLING FOR CHANGE (CAPE TOWN 199). FOUNDATION COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPACT IN LONG RUN IF IT EFFECTIVELY CARRIES OUT DECLARED INTENTION TO INFORM SOUTH AFRICANS OF "FACTS OF LIFE" IN OUTSIDE WORLD. KEY QUOTATIONS FROM MARAIS SPEECH CONTAINED REFTEL A. FULL TEXT BEING AIR POUCHED.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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